



Victoria Whitmore <victoria.whitmore@vetboard.az.gov>

Fwd: Press inquiry

Jerod MacDonald-Evoy [REDACTED]
To: Victoria Whitmore <victoria.whitmore@vetboard.az.gov>

Mon, Dec 9, 2024 at 3:28 PM

Sounds great.

On Mon, Dec 9, 2024 at 3:27 PM Victoria Whitmore <victoria.whitmore@vetboard.az.gov> wrote:
Ms. Frost said that mid-morning would work best for her on 12/20. I can set up a GoogleMeets call with the 3 of us. How about 10:00 a.m.?



Victoria Whitmore
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
ARIZONA VETERINARY MEDICAL BOARD

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Website: <https://vetboard.az.gov>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Victoria Whitmore <victoria.whitmore@vetboard.az.gov>
Date: Mon, Dec 9, 2024 at 3:13 PM
Subject: Re: Press inquiry
To: Jerod MacDonald-Evoy [REDACTED]

The 20th is best. I'm waiting for her to provide the best timeframe.

Thanks,



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On Mon, Dec 9, 2024 at 2:04 PM Jerod MacDonald-Evoy <[REDACTED]>
I will be back on Dec. 19. Can Ms. Frost be available for an interview on Dec. 19 or 20?

On Mon, Dec 9, 2024 at 11:59 AM Victoria Whitmore <victoria.whitmore@vetboard.az.gov> wrote:
Hello,

Ms. Frost won't be available until Thursday. We'd be happy to talk with you then or after that. It seems that providing some background about the Board's role and legal authority would be helpful for you.



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From: Victoria Whitmore <victoria.whitmore@vetboard.az.gov>
Date: Mon, Dec 9, 2024 at 8:51 AM
Subject: Re: Press inquiry
To: Jerod MacDonald-Evoy · [REDACTED]

You had not previously mentioned you had a deadline. That is always helpful to know.



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On Mon, Dec 9, 2024 at 8:10 AM Jerod MacDonald-Evoy · [REDACTED]

My deadline is today as I have Dec. 10 - 18 off. You had previously stated you'd have answers to the questions in the "next few days."

On Mon, Dec 9, 2024 at 8:08 AM Victoria Whitmore <victoria.whitmore@vetboard.az.gov> wrote:

Hello, Ms. Frost is traveling. I'm going to try to reach her today to see if we can set up a call with you later this week.



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On Mon, Dec 9, 2024 at 8:02 AM Jerod MacDonald-Evoy · [REDACTED]

Wanted to follow up. We anticipate publishing the story soon.

On Thu, Dec 5, 2024 at 9:56 AM Victoria Whitmore <victoria.whitmore@vetboard.az.gov> wrote:

Thank you, I will share these questions with the Board Chair and get back to you within the next few days.



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On Thu, Dec 5, 2024 at 9:02 AM Jerod MacDonald-Evoy · [REDACTED]

Here are my questions and line of inquiry:

After reviewing a state auditor general report and records obtained from a third party, it appears the board dismisses a larger number of complaints than it does take action. What is the reasoning behind dismissing such a large number of complaints?

Several people I have spoken with have talked about the difficulty in requesting an appeal on a decision made by the board or a review of evidence. Many have noted the difficulty in being able to interface with the board in a setting other than at a public meeting. What steps does the board take to make itself more available to the public and professionals to allow for greater transparency?

Earlier this year, the board moved to consolidate its two investigative committees into one committee. One of the new people assigned to this committee is an individual named Justin McCormick who has had a number of complaints filed against him and so has his wife. Does the board find any ethical issues with having a professional who has had multiple complaints made against him as a member of a "super" committee that aims to investigate complaints?

In my research I've also noticed that a number of people who have come and gone from the board have had connections to other members in some form or another. What steps does the board take to ensure that the candidates that do apply to the board do not have conflicts of interest and that the board is getting a wide variety of professional opinions?

An attorney I spoke with noted that filing a complaint with the board has "no point" as this attorney claimed the board sides more often than not with veterinarians and often "outright dismisses" claims made by pet owners. With a board mainly consisting of veterinarians and some who have had complaints, how does the board ensure fairness in the complaint process? How often do board members recuse themselves from voting on cases?

Some are pushing for changes to the law for pets to not just be considered property so in instances of malpractice a person can sue for intrinsic value. Is this something that the board would support?

On Wed, Dec 4, 2024 at 8:10 AM Jerod MacDonald-Evoy [REDACTED]

Is this the stance of the board after consulting with counsel? Arizona Public Record Law states that emails, even if it is a personal email, if used in an official capacity are public record and this includes not just the message but the email as well. I will be reaching out to the Arizona Ombudsman's Office this morning to confirm and if necessary, file a complaint as well as a public records request.

On Tue, Dec 3, 2024 at 6:48 PM Victoria Whitmore <victoria.whitmore@vetboard.az.gov> wrote:
Hello,

Yes, I still believe that the personal email ADDRESSES of our Board members would be considered personal information which we could not share. To be clear, as previously noted, I am only talking about their personal email addresses and not the content of any emails that were related to Board business.

If you will please share the information that you have that indicates that personal email addresses would be public information, I am happy to look into it further.

Also, again, I am happy to let the Board Chair know that you have questions if you would care to share the nature of your request so that she has some idea about your inquiry.

Thank you,



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On Tue, Dec 3, 2024 at 2:30 PM Jerod MacDonald-Evoy [REDACTED]
Any update on this?

On Mon, Dec 2, 2024 at 4:38 PM Victoria Whitmore <victoria.whitmore@vetboard.az.gov> wrote:
Got it. I will clarify with our legal counsel. I'm happy to provide whatever is required---I'm just sharing info as I understand it.

Thanks,



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On Mon, Dec 2, 2024 at 4:37 PM Jerod MacDonald-Evoy [REDACTED] wrote:
I am asking for their email addresses which are used during the work they do as a public body.

On Mon, Dec 2, 2024 at 4:36 PM Victoria Whitmore <victoria.whitmore@vetboard.az.gov> wrote:
No, they don't have State email addresses. I did not say any emails they send in relation to Board activities are not public information. Perhaps I misunderstood your question. I thought you were asking for their email addresses.



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On Mon, Dec 2, 2024 at 4:13 PM Jerod MacDonald-Evoy [REDACTED] wrote:
The vet board is a public body. I don't understand how emails that are subject to public records requests are considered personal information if they are used by a public body. I'm assuming the emails use the same naming convention of firstname.lastname@vetboard.az.gov?

On Mon, Dec 2, 2024 at 4:03 PM Victoria Whitmore <victoria.whitmore@vetboard.az.gov> wrote:
Hello, you can direct questions to me and I am happy to try to assist you.

The Board's spokesperson is the Board Chair, Nicole J. Frost, CVT. If you will please let me know what you are working on and what questions you may have, I can let her know.

The Board members' email addresses are personal information which we do not disclose. They would refer any inquiries to me.

Thank you,



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On Mon, Dec 2, 2024 at 3:46 PM Jerod MacDonald-Evoy [REDACTED] wrote:
I was trying to find out who is the best point of contact for questions I have for a story I am working on as well as the email for members of the board so I can email them specific questions/requests for an interview. That information is not readily available (to my knowledge) on the board's website.

On Mon, Dec 2, 2024 at 3:38 PM Victoria Whitmore <victoria.whitmore@vetboard.az.gov> wrote:
Hello,

Tracy forwarded your email to me. How can I help you?



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From: **Jerod MacDonald-Evoy** <[REDACTED]>
Date: Mon, Dec 2, 2024 at 12:49 PM
Subject: Press inquiry
To: <tracy.riendeau@vetboard.az.gov>

Good afternoon,

I'm reaching out as I am looking for the emails of the board and who I would reach out to for requests for comment/interviews? I hope you're well and look forward to hearing from you soon.

--
Jerod MacDonald-Evoy
Reporter @ Azmirror.com
[REDACTED]

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Jerod MacDonald-Evoy
Reporter @ Azmirror.com
[REDACTED]